

Prairie View A&M University

Digital Commons @PVAMU

PV Panther Newspapers

Publications

4-19-2006

Panther - April 2006

Prairie View A&M University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/pv-panther-newspapers>



Traffic officials correct stoplight problems, page 3

THE PANTHER

"Something inside so strong..."

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Parking violations undergo extreme makeover

By Nneka Meka
Editor in Chief

Parking citations just got a little livelier.

As of last Thursday, students committing parking violations have been receiving colorful digitally printed tickets on their windshields in the place of the hand printed ones they are accustomed too.

Each parking officer is now equipped with a real-time TDS Recon 200

which is basically a handheld computer capable of digitally storing and printing citations.

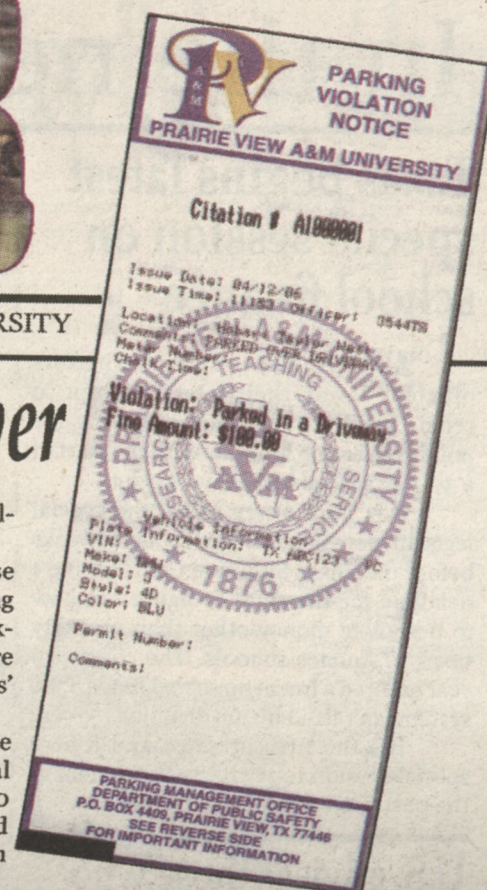
Parking supervisor Dempsey Wells said, "It was time for us to get into the 22nd century." Therefore in addition to issuing parking violations, photographs will now accompany every citation for parking management records.

According to Tressy Wilson, director of auxiliary services, this new system should aid in the process of expeditiously adding fines to fees while improving customer service. "Doing everything manually was killing us, billing would

sometimes be a month behind," said Wilson.

Both Wells and Wilson advise students to take advantage of acquiring decals in advance to avoid receiving tickets. The summer and fall 2006 decals are now here and can be added to students' fees.

Despite the new advances made in parking, violators may still appeal tickets on every other Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the MSC. However, they should heed Wells' warning, "A picture is worth a thousand words."



Skiping class costs university federal funds

Rumors of stricter enforcement of attendance policy are true

By Alanna Jones
News/Managing Editor

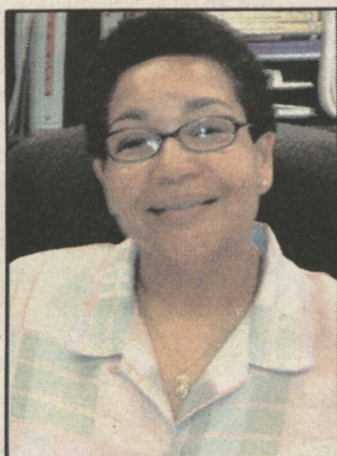
There is talk around campus about a new attendance policy the university is planning to enforce, and Deborah Dungey, the university registrar, has confirmed that these plans are true.

Dungey said some students who enroll in classes during early registration and who apply and receive money through government financial aid programs, do not return to school during the following semester.

The registrar explained that the university can be penalized when funds are awarded to a student who does not follow the proper procedures to withdraw from the classes in which they have enrolled. She said that this issue is very important because 85 percent of the student body is on partial or full financial aid.

"When a student has enrolled in courses, it is important that the university knows who is attending class because the money that is not used for a

student not attending class must be returned to the government," said Dungey. "If something is not implemented to prevent this from happening, the university can be fined, and eventually federal money will be taken away."



Dungey

In order for federal funding to not be taken away from the university, the office of the registrar piloted a program in fall 2005, spring 2006 and will

pilot it again in summer 2006 to ensure that the new "Attendance Reporting Program" will be implemented as of fall 2006. Dungey said that the program will be a win-win situation for the university and students.

Currently all students must be enrolled by the 12th class day of a semester and paid by the 20th day.

According to Dungey, beginning in fall 2006 "professors will report attendance up to the 20th class day so that the university will be able to see who is not attending class. For the university, this will prevent funds not being returned. For students, this will prevent bad grades."

"Attendance Reporting" will not affect a student's graduation directly, but can indirectly.

"The class attendance policy can be found on page 111 of the 2005-2007 undergraduate catalog. If absences prevent a student from graduating, that is ultimately up to the discretion of the professor," Dungey said.

Architecture students propose master plan for Waller



Realistic Application: Architecture students utilize what is being taught in the classroom to possibly better community.

By Tanesha Dillard
Panther Contributor

On Thursday, April 13, undergraduate design students, in a course taught by Professor Parisa Mazratian and Dr. Akel Kahera in the School of Architecture, presented proposed master plan designs to representatives of the City of Waller. The main focus of the project was to design a town center that will address

the development growth along the 290 corridor, while keeping a "small town feel" for the existing community. Currently, city offices are not housed in one building in the city, so the City Hall would bring the offices together. In addition to the City Hall, the master plans included single family homes, park area, amphitheater, and retail stores.

"The presentations were very well done," said John Isom, See **Architecture** page 16

In the news...

Texas begins latest special session on school finance

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers officially began their latest attempt to repair the state's method of paying for public education Monday with the start of a 30-day special legislative session.

Gov. Rick Perry called the special legislative session to begin about six weeks before the Texas Supreme Court's June 1 deadline for the state to figure out how to designate money other than property taxes to finance schools. The court last year ordered a freeze on school funds if the system isn't fixed by the deadline.

It's the fifth attempt and fourth special session to try to fix the system in the past two years.

U.S. advises those who favor Mideast peace to note Hamas praise for Tel Aviv bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Countries seeking to promote Middle East peace should note the praise offered by the Hamas-led Palestinian government for the lethal suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, the State Department said Monday.

Spokesman Sean McCormack said diplomats who choose to have contact with Hamas should urge the group to abide by the formula outlined by the Quartet three months ago: renounce violence, recognize Israel and abide by the Palestinian Authority's previous international commitments.

The Quartet comprises the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

Monday's attack, which killed nine Israelis, was claimed by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The reaction of Hamas was to describe the attack as a legitimate response to Israeli aggression.

McCormack said pledges of aid to Hamas by Iran and other countries run counter to the policy views of the United States and others.

He said Hamas faces difficult governing choices, pointing out that pledges of assistance of \$50 million (euro41.3 million) each from Iran and Qatar would cover only two-thirds of the monthly salaries for Palestinian Authority employees.

McCormack was asked about the pledge by Qatar, with which the United States has friendly relations.

Washington will "seek a little clarity from the government of Qatar as to exactly what their intentions are, to whom they actually intend to give this money and under what circumstances," he said.

GOP senator builds fundraising lead with help from Bush, Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) — A GOP senator from Ohio who has emphasized his independence has used two major fundraisers by the president and vice president to stretch his re-election campaign's financial edge over his likely Democratic opponent.

Sen. Mike DeWine's campaign said Monday it raised \$2.3 million from Jan. 1 to April 12, giving it \$5.2 million to spend in what is expected to be one of the closest Senate races in the country.

Challenger Sherrod Brown, a seven-term Democratic congressman from the Akron area, raised an estimated \$1.3 million in contributions in the quarter, bringing his estimated cash on hand to \$2.8 million. But DeWine raised nearly as much, \$1.1 million, in one February night at a suburban Cincinnati dinner with President Bush.

An event with Vice President Dick Cheney in January was expected to raise another \$100,000 for DeWine. Details about donations weren't available because Ohio candidates' reports aren't due to the Federal Election Commission until Thursday, several days after the deadline for much of the rest of the nation because of the state's early May 2 primary. Homeland Security has given no indication it will do so.

Prosecutors file first-degree murder charges against Oklahoma man

PURCELL, Okla. (AP) — Prosecutors filed first-degree murder charges Monday against a grocery store stocker who is accused of killing a 10-year-old girl in an elaborate plan to eat human flesh.

Kevin Ray Underwood, 26, was to be arraigned Monday afternoon. He was arrested Friday and held without bail after drawing suspicion at a checkpoint set up near the apartment complex where he and Jamie Rose Bolin were neighbors.

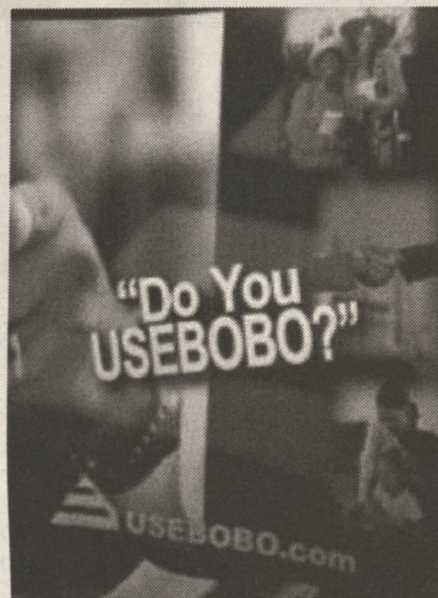
Authorities believe Underwood lured the 10-year-old into his apartment, beat her over the head with a wooden cutting board and suffocated her with his hands and duct tape.

Purcell Police Chief David Tompkins said investigators believe Underwood sexually assaulted the little girl after he killed her and planned to eat the corpse.

STATE & NATION

EDITED BY NNEKA MEKA NNEKA@PIVAMU.EDU

Majority of Illinois' black-owned businesses in Cook County



BOBO: Black owned and black operated businesses are currently on the rise.

Associated Press

About 80% of Illinois' black-owned businesses, among the fastest-growing segments of the American economy, are located in Cook County.

The number of black-owned businesses grew by 45% from 1997 to 2002, more than four times the national rate for all businesses, according to a Tuesday report by Census Bureau.

Revenues from black-owned businesses increased by 25% during the period, to about \$89 billion.

However, nearly all black-owned businesses are small - 92% had no employees other than the owners. By comparison, about three-fourths of all U.S. businesses had no employees.

"We do have challenges, we are making progress," said Ronald Langston, director of the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency. "This is the real challenge: to move these smaller businesses into the next step of growth."

The report is the third in a series of Census Bureau reports on businesses owned by women, Hispanics and blacks. Together, the reports show that the three groups are underrepresented in business ownership but are narrowing the gap with white men.

From 1997 to 2002:
-The number of all U.S. businesses grew by 10%, to about 23 million.

-The number of businesses owned by women grew by 20%, to 6.5 million.

-The number of businesses owned by men grew by 16%, to 13.2 million.

-The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew by 31%, to nearly 1.6 million.

-The number of businesses owned by white entrepreneurs grew by 8%, to 19.9 million.

Black entrepreneurs owned 1.2 million companies in the 2002, or about 5% of all nonfarm businesses in the U.S. Hispanics owned about 7% and women of all races and ethnicities owned 28%, according to the Census Bureau.

Blacks made up about 12% of the population in 2002.

"We're about halfway there," said Harry Alford, president and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. "The future is bright. We will continue to spiral up."

Alford said black entrepreneurs have been helped by improved education levels and increased incomes among black consumers and business owners.

Blacks as a group still trail whites in education and income, but they have made gains in the past half-century. In 1950, only 14% of black adults had high school diplomas, compared with 36% of whites, according to the Census Bureau. The gap narrowed by 2000, when 72% of black adults had at least a high school diploma, compared with 84% of whites.

The report is based on administrative records and a survey of 2.4 million businesses. The Census Bureau defines black-owned businesses as private companies in which blacks hold at least 51% of stock or interest. The report does not classify public companies, with publicly traded stock, because they can be owned by many stockholders of unknown races and ethnicities.

The largest sector for black-owned businesses was health care and social assistance, with 246,000 black-owned firms. The second largest was other services, such as personal services, repair and maintenance, with 210,000 firms.

New York state had the most black-owned firms, with 129,324. It was followed by California, Florida, Georgia and Texas. Together, the five states are home to 44% of all black-owned firms in the country.

CAMPUS

EDITED BY ALANNA JONES AJONES7@PIVAMU.EDU

Working out is a little closer to home Hempstead gym is the place to get fit



By Alanna Jones
News/ Managing Editor

As a student newspaper, it is important to venture outside the campus to find out what's going on in PV's immediate surrounding communities. There are so many things to be discovered, amenities to take advantage of, and many new things to learn about history and how this university came to be.

During this adventure to make new discoveries to share with PV's student body, Fitness Plus, a fitness gym, was found in the back parts of

Hempstead on 12th street.

Walking into the facility, one would find that it has everything that any mainstream gym would provide to get those summer bodies into shape.

Patricia Devers, owner and founder of Fitness Plus, began her journey to become a gym owner at PV. It was, and still is, her heart's desire to provide a place where people will not live a "sedimentary lifestyle" and stay active for the purposes of life and health.

Currently PV does not have a facility in which students can get a good workout in an environment that provides many different types of equipment for all students to take advantage of.

At only \$20 a month for membership, and no sign up costs, Devers has made it possible for all students to start living a healthy lifestyle.

Devers deserves commendation for what she is doing in this community.

Faculty discuss Freshman Academic Profile Test

By Chantel Gage
Panther Staff

Faculty of Prairie View A&M University gathered Thursday, April 17, for their third annual faculty assembly sponsored by the faculty senate.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide "an interactive forum between faculty and faculty senate," stated Senator Evelyn Thornton, who heads the senate. The meeting

also dealt with academic and student affairs.

The Freshman Academic Profile Test (FAPT) was one of the main topics of discussion. The FAPT is an idea that was proposed by the faculty senate as a way to determine the academic level of a student. If the test gets approved it could be administered to all freshmen in a survey format. If a student takes the test the results could help in the student's academic career in the future.



Photo by Evan White

Getting the job done: Faculty listen attentively at how to help freshmen on their individual levels when entering college.

Traffic officials correct stop light problems

By Sean Mitchell
Panther Staff

At the request of David Moore of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and officials in Prairie View, the traffic light at the intersection

for long stretches of time, tempting many to attempt to run the red light.

Officials from the Texas Department of Transportation have set up a video detection device at the intersection to help relay information and sort out

Jackson on the city's actions.

"Since it is a matter of safety, they usually put it on priority to correct a problem in 24 hours."

The TxDOT traffic technicians supervisor of the Houston district is David Moore.

After a report filed by the city of Prairie View's police department regarding to the light, Moore sent a TxDOT crew to the intersection on March 22 to install a video detection device. He said that the "device lets a traffic controller know there is a vehicle at the stoplight."

It seems since the changes were made, the light has indeed improved and now seems to function.

Though he never noticed a problem himself, Jackson encouraged people to report any problems at the intersection.

He said, "If anybody sees a problem, they can call the on-campus police, off-campus police, the mayor's office, myself, or TxDOT. The more eyes on the light, the better."

Red light, green light: Traffic is moving smoothly at the University Drive and Owens Road intersection.

of University Drive and Owens Road has undergone some changes to correct the alleged problems it has experienced.

Some Prairie View drivers have claimed that at certain times from late night to early morning the signal stalls on red

the issues which have come up and see what the malfunction was, if there was any.

"We've asked the highway department [the maintenance office of TxDOT] to see if it was malfunctioning," commented Prairie View Mayor Frank

THE PANTHER

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Editor in Chief: Nneka Meka

Sports Editor: Rashad Morgan

News/ Managing Editor: Alanna Jones

L/H and A/E Editor: LaCheryl E. Whitlow

Photographers: LeWebster Lacy

Copy Editors: DeTorsha Brunson
Palmer Perez

Office/Business Manager: Otis Clayborne II
Photo/Online Editor: Marques Allen
Assistant Photo Editor: Evan White
Flag: Trason Smith

The Panther is a publication supported through advertising and student activity fees. Views expressed within the publication are not necessarily those shared by Prairie View A&M University or the Texas A&M University Board of Regents. All articles, photographs, and graphics are property of The Panther.

PV alumna promotes healthy living and fitness for Waller County

By Alanna Jones
News/Managing Editor

PV alumna Patricia Devers is the founder and owner of Fitness Plus, located at 837 12th street in Hempstead. Although the location has changed, business is still going strong.

Devers said that she has a "true passion" for the gym and that it will not close.

Devers is originally from Pineland, Texas, and graduated from PV in 1968 with a degree in physical education and a minor in biology.

She then went into coaching, and now is retired after working in Waller ISD for 19 years.

Devers is a firm believer in health and fitness. Already having an understanding for what good health could do for her body, she won a battle with cancer with no chemotherapy or radiation.

"Your body does not give up on you, you give up on your body," said Devers.

Due to the rising cost of her gym location on 11th and 12th street, Devers knew that she had to give all her worries to Christ so that she could continue her business.

"All things work together for the good for those who love the Lord," she quoted.

Devers firmly believes that the African American community needs to pay close attention to their health because they are at higher risks.

Devers explains that the "mind and body work together and that exercising helps feed the body and brain the oxygen that it needs."

Saint Morris, who has been a member for almost four years says that he enjoys working out as well as the nurturing environment that Devers provides.



Photo by Alanna Jones

Work it out: Owner Patricia Devers and club members, take time out of their work out to pose for a quick pic.

"Working out is a habit for me, but Mrs. Devers is like my extended family. She cares about the lives of her customers."

Besides the low prices that Devers provides for stu-

dents to join, she is an encourager and promoter for long plentiful living.

As people walk out the door they will read, "The goal is to keep coming!"

Congratulations

To the
Delta Theta
chapter of
Phi Beta Sigma
Fraternity, Inc.
on their
success at their
Regional Conference
Awards Won:

- Largest Intake of All Chapters in the Nation
- Largest Collegiate Chapter in the Gulf Coast Region
- Social program of the Year
- Bigger and Better Business Program
- 1st Place Chapter Report
- 2nd Place Chapter Display

Steffanie Monroe is crowned 'Lady of the Dove'

By Jameka Merriweather
Panther Staff

On Wednesday, April 12, the Memorial Student Center auditorium was full of signs and support as the Dangerous Delta Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated crowned Steffanie Monroe at the 8th annual Lady of the Dove Scholarship Pageant.

Entitled "Reflections

of the Past, the Essence of the Present," contestants took on the roles of some of the greatest music icons of the past and present such as Alicia Keys, Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Patti LaBelle, Tina Turner, and Gladys Knight. Ike and Tina Turner impersonators, Marvin Jackson and Johanna Thomas, were the master and mistress of ceremonies.

The pageant began with the contestants modeling sportswear. Then the crowd was wowed with musical talents as well as poetic showcases. The question and answer period required contestants to be quick yet thorough to demonstrate their character and intelligence. Finally, the contestants sparkled and bedazzled the crowd on the "red carpet" in their formal wear.

Not only did DJ Merk keep the crowd entertained, but the crowd received a special treat during intermission as Prairie View's own, Catherine Burnley of Dalynise, performed Beyonce's *Danger-*

ously in Love.

Ms. Chandra Watkins, Lady of the Dove 2005-2006, was pleased with the results of the pageant. "I think the pageant was a huge success and the girls put in a lot of work and it really paid off; it showed throughout the entire pageant."

Students enjoyed the pageant as well as the entertainment. "The Ike impersonator was really funny; the pageant as a whole was nice and it ran very smoothly," said sophomore computer engineering major Antoinette Majors.

Monroe was surprised to win the crown. "I was in total shock because I really didn't think I was going to win." Furthermore, she enjoyed the entire experience. "It was fun and a learning experience."

The runner-up was Ms. Jerlonda "Lonnie" Ross of New Orleans, La.

The men of Phi Beta Sigma were pleased yet relieved that the pageant was a success. The 2006 pageant coordinator, Gary Hill said, "It was a long road getting to this point. The ladies put in a lot of hard work and I had a lot of help from last year's Lady of the Dove as well as my brothers of Phi Beta Sigma. As my first time putting on a pageant, it would not have been as great without the cooperation of the girls and my brothers."

While the career fair gave students a chance to network, it

Education career fair a success

By Ashley Slayton
Panther Staff

The College of Education held a career fair April 18 in the MSC ballroom.

Over one hundred school districts attended the event, including districts as far away as Tyler, Nacogdoches, Beaumont, Dallas and schools from nearby districts such as Hempstead, Houston, College Station and Waller.

Dr. Martha L. Bailey, director of student teaching and field experience, said that the College of Education's responsibilities include training students and seeing that they find positions. The career fair, she said, was a teaching tool for students.

For many students and graduates the event provided an opportunity to survey competition. Crystal Ricard, a teacher and a Prairie View graduate, attended the event "to basically get a feel of all the districts and see the competition that was out."

While the career fair gave students a chance to network, it

also gave districts an opportunity to survey potential employees. Marcette Kilgore, director of human resources for Clear Creek ISD, said "We're looking for teachers who are student focused and progressive in their thinking." Kilgore stressed the importance of hands on activities in the classroom for on going assessment.

Robert Branch, assistant Principal at Clear Creek High School, talked about the benefits students could receive from attending the event. "It gives them options," said Branch. "They're not bound to go back home to the school district they graduated from."

According to Bailey, the next step for students is to complete their program and for student teachers, to find a job and start teaching.

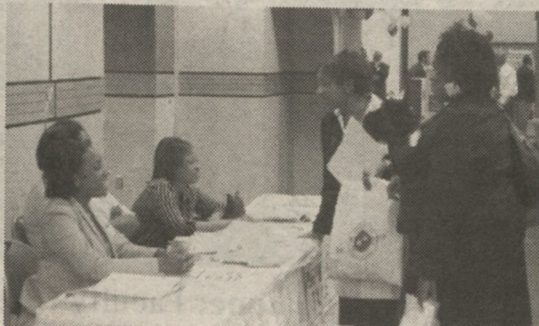


Photo by Evan White

Making a connection: Students network with potential employers to further their career plans.

PAN Week unifies Greek organizations

By Sharonda Peals
Panther Staff

Throughout the week of April 10-13, Prairie View's Pan-Hellenic Council hosted several events on campus to showcase each Greek organization. There are nine historically black Greek letter organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Collectively, these organizations are referred to as "The Divine Nine," which are composed of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity. Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history; ties to one or more of these organizations may be found in many college-educated black families in the United States. Prairie View's Pan-Hellenic Council serves as the coordinating agent, unifying and policy implementing body for affiliate organizations. They also maintain their autonomy in the establishment of policies and procedures concerning their respective organizations. An important task of the council is to set guidelines in areas of mutual interest and coordinate joint activities.

On Monday April 10, the Pan-Hellenic Council hosted a seminar called, "True Life, I'm Greek" in the Animal Science Building for all freshmen on campus who are interested in learning more about each Greek organization. Each fraternity and sorority of "The Divine Nine" sent several representatives from their association. Anyone who had a question for a particular organization wrote the question down on a piece of paper and it was answered. Sigma Gamma Rho member Kalani Briggs said, "The seminar gave a more in-depth look at each Greek organization on campus and the way we carry ourselves. I felt that it was a very informative seminar and I think that each student who attended got a lot out of it."

On the night of Wednesday, April 12, PAN threw a party where each Greek organization gathered at the water fountain to strut and show off their stepping skills. Zeta Phi Beta member Courtney Walker described the event as "hump day at night." Courtney said, "We all got together and had a good time strutting, showing Greek unity, and proving that we can all get along. Everything went really well during PAN week."

Thursday, April 13, the PAN Give-Back event, where members were going to hand

out treats and snacks to fellow students outside the MSC was rescheduled for this week.

On Sunday, PAN members gathered together to have a block party in the Phase I basketball court. There was music, dancing, and an opportunity for all members to socialize.

Looking back, Delta Sigma Theta member Jereme Gant stated, "Pan Week brought Greek unity to the campus and showed that we can all be a positive influence on fellow students." Adding to Jereme's comment, president of PAN Toren Watson said, "It was a big step for this campus because we have done some things we have never done. We've always been seen as individuals but

not as a whole. However, we all represent the same thing, which is service even though we were all founded at different times. One Yard, One Love."

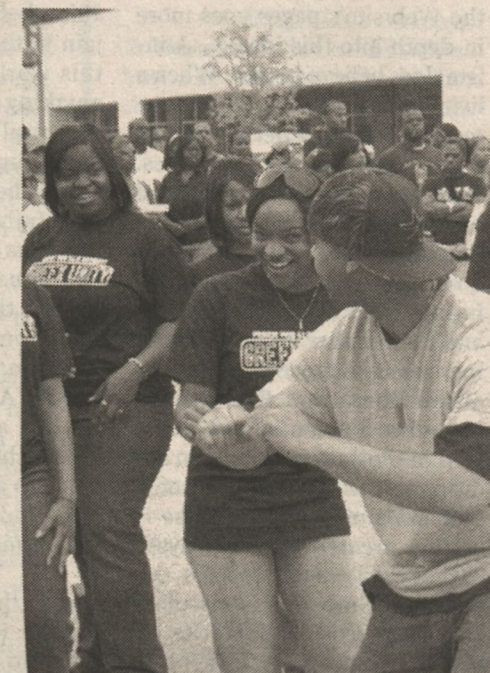


Photo by Evan White

One for all, and all for one. The Divine Nine gather on hump day to perform unity strut.

Congratulations

To the
Rho Theta
chapter of
Omega Psi Phi
Fraternity, Inc.
on their
success at their
69th District Meeting
Awards Won:

- Scholarship Achievement Award for Highest GPA
- 2nd place- District March-down
- Saint-Aaron Morris elected to 2nd Vice District Representative



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

BE SAFE, BE SMART, PLAY BY ALL THE RULES!!

You must have a grade of 'C' or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for the summer/fall. Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.

APRIL 30TH IS THE LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR A LOAN FOR SPRING SEMESTER

PLANNING ON GOING TO SUMMER SCHOOL AWAY FROM PV??? YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR SUMMER CREDITS PRE-APPROVED!! SEE YOUR ADVISOR FOR DETAILS!!

Congratulations to the PV Athletic Department for hosting the NCAA Bowling Championships...Good Job!!!

PRE-REGISTRATION IS ONGOING!! CLEAR ANY HOLDS BEFORE YOU TRY TO REGISTER

RESTAURANT

Accepting Applications!

**PAPPADEAUX
SERVERS, HOSTS, COOKS,
BUSSERS & DISHWASHERS**

Our menu includes a dynamic team atmosphere and unlimited opportunities to succeed!

Apply Tue. - Fri., 3-5 p.m.

13080 Hwy 290 at Hollister

EOE

In search of infinity: Jainism

By Sean Mitchell
Panther Staff

The central message in Jainism (pronounced JI-nism) is that everything that exists is never-ending, that nothing has a beginning or ending and that one should eliminate his karmas to become a Siddha. Lord Rishabha (who in sculpture resembles a Buddha-like figure) founded Jainism in India many centuries before Christ (B.C.). Rishabha is revered in Jainism as the first Tirthankar of Jainism, or the first human with "perfect knowledge." The movement is similar to many other faiths founded in Ancient India, such as Buddhism, Sikhism, and Hinduism, but is a separately distinct religion.

According to <http://www.jinvani.com/>, Jainism has no creator, no being that oversees universe and does what he, she, or it pleases. Instead individual

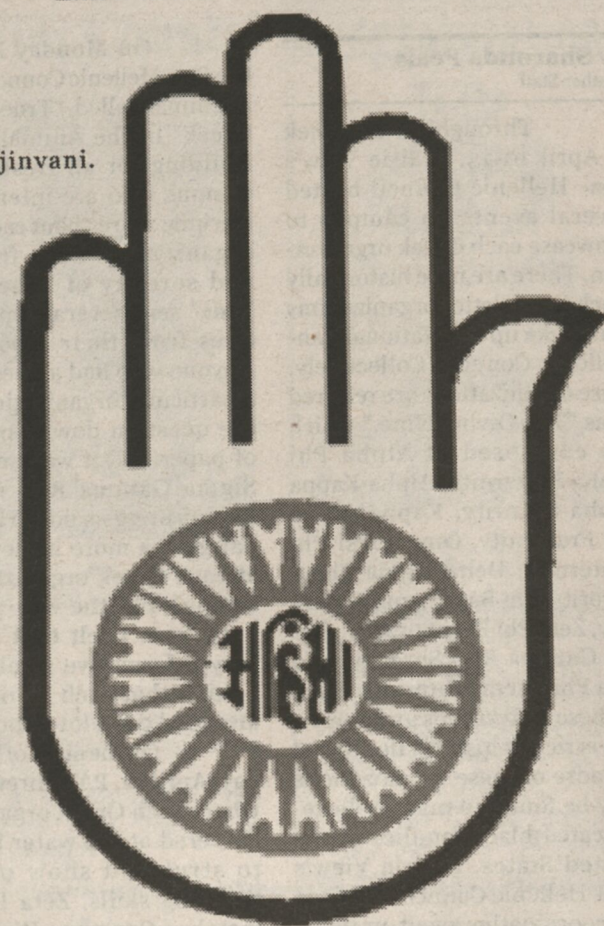
beings seek wisdom to become all knowing and in a sense Gods themselves. A quote from one of the Web site's pages goes more in-depth into this idea: "...Jainism does believe in God. When a living being destroys all his karmas, he possesses perfect knowledge, vision, power, and bliss. He becomes omniscient and omnipotent. This living being is a God of Jain religion. Hence Jains do not believe in one God. Gods in Jain religion are innumerable and the number is continuously increasing as more living beings attain liberation. Every living being has a potential to become God of the Jain religion." In addition to this it should be noted that in Jainism the universe is neither created nor destroyed. Rather than ceasing to exist, the pattern of universe is circular, working through patterns of reincarnation.

One principle involved in Jainism is the jiva (or untouchable ideas that are not tied

to anything worldly) and ajiva (everything connected to the universe: time, space, movement). Jains believe that karma traps jain in the again, or in things of this world. If any jiva touches anything ajiva, suffering follows. A central idea of Jainism is that suffering is inevitable in this world, because everything that exist (ajivas) has a jiva within it, and thus suffering comes about. One must escape suffering by having the jiva completely escape from the four ghatis (stage) of Human, Heavenly bodies, Plants/Animals/Insects/Fish/etc life, and Hell, by practicing the teaching of Jainism continuously to attain liberation, salvation, and finally never let go of the ultimate aim.

This is only the beginning in the understanding of Jainism. For a more in-depth look, log onto <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism> and <http://www.jinvani.com/>.

www.jinvani.com/.



IN THE SPIRIT

EDITED BY ANEKA NEKA

ANEKA@PIAUI.EDU

VIEWPOINTS

EDITED BY ANEKA NEKA ANEKA@PIAUI.EDU

Column

Everyone is happy in Tinseltown

By Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

All seems well in Tinseltown again.

Tom and Katie are about to become proud parents. So are Brad and Angelina.

Dodger Stadium looks better than ever, and Jack Nicholson looks as though he's had a bit of a makeover, too.

The beautiful people are still beautiful. The Clippers are no longer pitiful.

And the Lakers are back in the NBA playoffs.

Yes, those Lakers. You might remember them from a few years back when Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal were buddies, courtside seats cost \$2,000 a game, and the biggest problem owner Jerry Buss had was figuring out how many diamonds to put on the championship rings.

Not everything has changed.

Sitting near Nicholson will still set you back a mortgage payment or two. The Laker Girls still look Hollywood perfect, and Bryant still shoots every time he touches the ball within 25 feet of the basket.

But even in Tinseltown not everything goes according to script. The dynasty was unraveled quickly when Kobe and Shaq started feuding, Kobe and Phil stopped talking, and Kobe had to go to Colorado to do a lot of explaining.

Things got so bad that B-list celebrities were allowed to sit at courtside.

Gone are the old Lakers who used to swagger into the playoffs knowing they could beat anyone.

In their place is a team just happy to still be playing this coming week-

end.

"It doesn't really seem like we're overly jumping for joy, but it is a great accomplishment for us," Bryant said after the Lakers beat Phoenix to clinch a playoff spot Sunday. "We came from last season when we didn't make it. This season nobody expected us to make it and here we are."

Credit Bryant for most of that. He's the dominant player in the game and will end the season as the first player since Michael Jordan in 1987-88 to average 35 points or more.

Give a big assist to Jackson, too, who called Bryant uncoachable in his book yet somehow found a way to coach him when the Lakers offered him \$10 million a year to come back.

Not that Jackson has spent much time coaching Bryant. The Zen philosopher now seems to have a new philosophy — let Bryant do what he wants and hope Lamar Odom and a generic collection of understudies pick up enough of the slack for the Lakers to pull out a win.

Jackson barely batted an eye when Bryant scored 81 points in January to lead the Lakers to a win over Toronto.

"It's not exactly the way you want to have a team win a game, but when you have to win a game, it's great to have that weapon to be able to do that," Jackson.

Bryant will have to score and then score some more if the Lakers have any hope of making it out of the first round of the playoffs. He may be the leading candidate for league MVP, but, unlike Steve Nash, he doesn't seem to have either the desire or the knack to make his teammates better at the same time.

That leaves the Lakers pretty much where they've been since training camp in Hawaii — a one-man band with a superstar who never seems to bond completely with his teammates.

The good news for the Lakers is they've won 10 of their last 13 and are playing better

than at any time this year. Odom has shown signs of coming out of Bryant's large shadow a bit lately, Kwame Brown is beginning to be a presence on the inside, and Luke Walton has filled in the gaps as a starter in recent games.

The bad news is they may not even be the best team in their own building (see LA Clippers), and will likely end up facing the Phoenix Suns in the first round of the playoffs.

That should bring a smile to the faces of network television executives because the Lakers are still the biggest draw in the NBA and the series will feature a head-to-head matchup of leading MVP candidates in Bryant and Nash.

Who would have imagined a few years ago that Nash would have more MVP awards (one) than Bryant, who, incredibly, has yet to win one after 10 years in the league.

He's the odds-on favorite this year, though a case could be made that a player wins an MVP by making his teammates better as Nash continues to do in Phoenix.

Bryant likes his chances.

"I'd vote for myself," he said.

And if he couldn't? "I wouldn't vote at all."

The MVP trophy will be the only hardware the Lakers take home this season. Bryant may win a playoff game or two just by his own sheer will, but this is a team with too many holes and too little experience to go far.

Still, the Lakers are back in the postseason after a one-year absence. That means the beautiful people will have a chance to see and be seen for a few more games.

And in Tinseltown, that's what really matters the most.

African-American children's test scores were not reported

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
Associated Press

COLUMBUS — LaTonya Robinson knows her son did well on tests at his elementary school. What she didn't know was the limits the school put on reporting his results.

Federal law allows Clinton Elementary School to exclude the test scores of black children as a separate racial group — including those of her son, James — when measuring how well those children did on reading and math.

In Ohio, almost 40,000 students, or about 4 percent of all test scores, aren't counted under the law's racial categories, an Associated Press analysis found. Almost all were minority students, and most were black or Hispanic.

Overall, AP found that about 1.9 million students — or about 1 in every 14 test scores — aren't being counted under the law's racial categories. The scores of minorities were seven times as likely to be excluded as of whites, the analysis showed.

At Clinton, the scores weren't counted last year, James' first year at the school, or in 2004, when only 27 black children took tests there — below a statistical cutoff for using the scores to judge whether schools met federal requirements.

"I don't think that should have happened," said Robinson, a state government auditor. "Everybody should be counted."

A key element of the federal No Child Left Behind Act was tracking student performance by race to ensure that all children, black or white, Hispanic or Asian, were making progress.

The goal was overcoming what President Bush called the "soft bigotry of low expectations."

Under the 2002 law, all students, including subcategories broken down by race, must achieve proficiency in reading and math by 2014. All scores, including those of minority children, must be included in the overall measure.

Schools receiving federal aid also must demonstrate that students in all racial categories are meeting performance goals or risk penalties that include extending their school year, changing their curriculum or firing their administrators and teachers. If any category of students fails, the whole school fails.

But that requirement came with a loophole. Using a cutoff, schools don't have to break out the scores of racial groups that are deemed too small to be statistically

significant.

In Ohio, the number is 30. In Ohio, black children constituted 35 percent of the schoolchildren whose scores were excluded from reporting by racial group, followed by Hispanic children at 29 percent.

By contrast, white children, the vast majority of Ohio schoolchildren, constituted just 10 percent of the total number of excluded children.

Put another way, 8 percent of black test scores in Ohio aren't broken out at the school level, while only 0.5 percent of white test scores aren't broken out.

Critics of the exclusion say schools can meet their federal mandate and no one would ever know how minority children did.

They say that hurts the state's ability to address the recognized gap between the scores of white and black children.

For example, the AP found that in Ohio, 81 percent of the 1,829 schools able to exclude the separate reporting of black children's scores met overall annual yearly progress goals — the measure by which schools pass or fail under No Child Left Behind.

"If you're going to really look at the achievement gap, and you're going to look at servicing all kids, why if certain schools fall under a certain number are they allowed to negate those children?" said Deb Tully, director of professional issues for the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

Educators strongly disagree with that conclusion. They say that while the scores aren't reported as a subgroup, districts know how each child is doing.

As a result, a school is hurting itself if it doesn't help every child, said Gloria Edgerton, director of systemic school improvement for Columbus Public Schools, the state's second-largest district after Cleveland.

"There's no way you can eliminate one group and not affect your all student group, so every group counts, no matter what the number is," she said.

The state acknowledges the issue but says the current system represents the best compromise between measuring scores accurately and not having a cutoff figure so high that some minorities might never be counted.

In addition, the problem will diminish as the number of grades tested and counted under the law increase, said Mitch Chester, the Department of Education's assistant superintendent for policy and accountability.

Bill's Seafood Kitchen
203 Bremond (Exit 1488)
(979) 826-3568

\$2.99 3 pc Whiting & Fries 10 pc Catfish Nuggets & Fries 8 Wings	\$3.99 5 pc Wings, 6 pc Catfish Nuggets, & Fries
\$4.99 15 Shrimp & Fries 3 pc Drum & Fries 6 Shrimp, 1 piece Catfish & Fries	

ASK FOR SPECIALS

BROOKS LANDING APARTMENTS
24444 RICHARDS ROAD
936-857-9533
WWW.BROOKSLANDINGAPTS.COM

ONE MILE FROM CAMPUS

1X1	2X2	4X2
\$645	\$495/\$520	\$415

PRICES FOR EACH ROOM!!
ALL ROOMS INCLUDE: ALL BILLS PAID
CABLE (3 PREMIUM), WASHER & DRYERS IN EACH APARTMENT,
BUILT IN DESKS AND CEILING FANS

Build a future with the

IRVING POLICE DEPARTMENT
Police officer starting salary: \$44,400 - \$62,652

Benefits:	Minimum Requirements:
- health, life, dental insurance	- 21 to 44 years of age
- 25 year retirement (TMRS)	- high school diploma or GED
- vacation leave: 120 hours/yr	- 30 hours from an accredited college or university
- paid holidays: 9 days/yr	- meet acceptable mental and physical requirements
- educational, longevity, bilingual, and shift differential pay	

Next Testing Date: MAY 20, 2006
Recruiting: 972-721-3795 or toll free 1-877-777-3750 www.irvingpd.com

FREE APARTMENT LOCATOR

Houses – Apartments – Lofts – High Rises

1 BEDROOMS-\$429

2 BEDROOMS-\$600

3 BEDROOMS-\$788

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE! Pre-lease NOW.

STUDENT DISCOUNTS, MOVE-IN SPECIALS, FREE RENT!

**We already know where the hottest specials are,
WHY WASTE THAT GAS DRIVING AROUND!**

281-861-6611

WWW.LOCATEHOUSTON.COM

(Prices and specials subject to change at any time.)

TEXAS APARTMENT CONNECTORS

All Recognized Student Organizations

Programming 2006-2007
Calendar Meeting
Thursday, April 27, 2006
SGA Senate Chambers
5:30pm

*One (1) representative per organization
Please register via email:
dmsimmons@pvamu.edu
No later than 5:00pm Wed., April 26, 2006*

PURPLE & GOLD POLL

What can PV do to produce more productive people?



Increase enrollment, so we can increase the finances, so we can increase the productivity of productive people.

**-James Durant
Junior
Political Science/English**



We should provide more encouraging job fairs or more activities on campus to help prevent violence.

**-Amber Foster
Sophomore
Human Performance**



Increase student morale, faculty members should be graded (extrinsic), more activities for students throughout the day, not just Homecoming and Spring Fest.

**-Bryan Robertson
Junior
Education**



Making financial aid more available, like books, housing and student workers without all the nonsense.

**-Gina Smith
Junior
Nursing**

Evan White

SPORTS

EDITED BY RASHAD MORGAN RMORGAN@PIAMU.EDU

Lady Panthers sweep Tigers

Panther News Service

Prairie View continued its upward move in the Southwestern Athletic Conference standing with two wins against rival Texas Southern, 6-4 and 11-3. With the sweep of the weekend series, the Lady Panthers move to within one game of third place in the SWAC west.

In the opener, Texas Southern jumped out to a 3-0 lead thru the first four and a half innings. Prairie View managed one run in the fifth before exploding for five runs in the sixth. Designated hitter Ashley Jones, center fielder Nikki Lilly and short stop Christy Uribe each drove in a run before second baseman Sheena Robertson had a two-run homer to close out all scoring in the inning. The Lady Tigers could muster only one run in the final inning.

PVAMU freshman Analisa Gonzales upped her record to 7-10 with the win. TSU Sophomore Natalie Jones dropped to 5-4 with the loss.

In game two, Prairie View had another explosive inning when they scored five runs in the fifth after managing a 6-3 lead thru four innings. Third baseman Emily Holcomb accounted for three runs in the inning and Junior Jannell Meyers drove in two runs.

Both Holcomb and catcher Amberly Fuller went 2-for-2 at the plate. Holcomb had five RBIs and scored twice while Fuller had two runs.

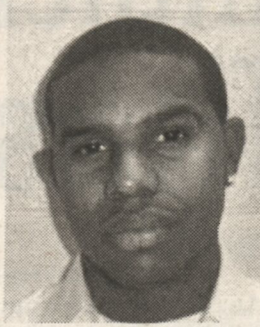
Junior Jannell Meyers earned the win for the Lady Panthers and improved her record to 3-8. Freshman Katie Ortiz incurred the loss for the Lady Tigers.



Clawing their way to the top:
Lady Panthers Analisa Gonzales (top), Amberly Fuller (top left), and Sheena Robertson (left) helped in the series sweep over rivals, Texas Southern Tigers.

Commentary

Let the athletes have fun



By **LeMont Calloway**
Black College Wire

Who remembers one of the common plot elements in children's cartoons and movies, a faraway land where there was no fun, no enjoyment, no creativity and no expression?

Do you remember it took that clever superhuman figure, like Michael Jackson in the Epcot Center's "Captain EO," to provide the fun?

I feel as if I should dig deep inside myself and find that superhero who will enable me to jump-start the fun and creative sparkplugs of the sports world. If I don't, who will?

I know it won't be NBA Commissioner David Stern or the NFL's competition committee.

At recent NFL league meetings

in Orlando, the competition committee voted 29-3 to limit the newfound creativity of touchdown celebrations made famous (or infamous in the eyes of a select few) by wide receivers Steve Smith of the Carolina Panthers, Chad Johnson of the Cincinnati Bengals and Terrell Owens of the Dallas Cowboys, among others.

In the opinion of the committee, the celebrations had begun to get out of hand.

In one, Johnson appeared to perform CPR on the football while Owens held the ball as if it were a waiter's tray. Celebrations as elaborate as these (too "showboaty" in the eyes of some) will now result in a 15-yard penalty assessed on the kickoff.

As if the dress code adopted by the NBA in the off-season weren't enough, the NBA is considering banning the compression tights that many players, including Kobe Bryant and Dwayne Wade, have sported this season.

The old guys running the league believe it to be a fashion statement from these "hip-hop thuggish ballers."

Not true.

"It's something to keep you warm," Joe Smith of the Milwaukee Bucks told the Associated Press. "It keeps my knee from swelling up, keeps some tightness around it so it won't blow up on me when I'm out there."

Sounds like a good enough

reason to me. After all, the NBA would love to see its star players, the ones they're eating off, healthy and in shape. Right?

We know Bill Russell didn't wear tights, but Walt Frazier had his own eclectic style of fashion. We know Bart Starr wasn't a flamboyant figure, but "Broadway Joe" Namath sure was.

Nobody attempted to put a stranglehold on Frazier or Namath when they did their things. Call me too hip, but what's the big deal with stepping out of the old school and allowing our sports stars to define the new?

When this country experienced terrorist attacks and disasters, who did the public seek out to take their minds off the madness? Athletes and professional sports.

These athletes are supposed to allow common, everyday working people to free themselves from the rigors of bills and jobs and provide them with entertainment and a good time.

Why can't athletes use sports to free themselves from their everyday lives and have a good time as well?

LeMont Calloway, a senior newspaper journalism student at Florida A&M University, writes for the Fannin. He can be reached at thefanninsports@hotmail.com.

Ex-Texas star Young visits Vikes

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Quarterback Vince Young paid a pre-draft visit to Minnesota on Monday.

Young accounted for 467 yards in the Rose Bowl to lead Texas to the national championship, after which his stock rapidly accelerated. He announced four days later he was skipping his senior season to turn pro.

Along with USC's Matt Leinart and Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler, Young is one of three highly rated quarterbacks in this year's draft.

The Vikings have the 17th pick, which will probably be way too late to pick any of them, but they also have two selections each in the second and third rounds and could put together a package to trade up.

Coach Brad Childress has said the team is interested in developing a young quarterback this year, though he could also come from a trade. Currently, Brad Johnson is the starter, with Mike McMahon and J.T. O'Sullivan the backups.



America's next top QB: Vince Young visits Minnesota Vikings who are interested in "developing a young quarterback."

PV athletics in brief

Giles grand slam propels Panthers over Tigers

Panther News Service

Senior left fielder Johnny Giles' grand slam in the sixth inning propelled Prairie View over Grambling State 14-7 in Southwestern Athletic Conference action today.

Prairie View jumped to an early 5-0 lead thru two innings before Grambling State scored seven runs in the next three to take a 7-6 lead after five complete innings. In the bottom of the sixth, third baseman Wilford White scored the tying run on an error by relief pitcher Jonovan Robinson. Right fielder Oscar Goldman drove a run to move the Panthers up by one before designated hitter Arthur Christal hit a single to left field to up the score to 9-7. With two outs and the bases loaded, Giles hit a grand slam over the right-center fence to give Prairie View a commanding 13-7 lead. After that, Prairie View managed one more score in the seventh inning when first baseman Eugene Edwards drove in catcher Brandon Whitby for the game's final score.

With the victory, junior Dominick Herrell recorded his first win of the season. Jonovan Robinson was credited with the loss.

Lady Panther basketball adds two to list of signees

Panther News Service

Prairie View A&M University head women's basketball coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke announced the signing of two more prepsters to national letters of intent for the 2006-07 school year. Joining the Lady Panthers for the upcoming season are Whitney Ligons and Shakeya Johns.

Ligons, who stands 6-3, will play both center and power forward for the Lady Panthers. She prepped at Ygnacio Valley High School in Richmond, Calif. and led her team in scoring (15.4 ppg), rebounding (11.0 rpg) and blocks (2.9 bpg) while shooting 45 percent from the field.

A 5-6 guard from Antioch High School in Antioch, Tenn. who can play both guard spots, Johns led her team to a 23-13 overall record and a spot in the Class AAA Sectionals last season. She is her school's all-time leading scorer with 1,504 points and was a part of three consecutive district championship teams.

"I'm excited that we were able to sign two versatile players who will help our team for next season," said Cooper-Dyke. "This will improve our rebounding under the basket and add depth to the backcourt."

Cooper-Dyke, who signed six players during the fall signing period, plans to sign one more player to complete her 2006-07 signing class in the upcoming days.

Mo' going pro?

Gonzaga star expected to declare for NBA draft

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) -- Gonzaga forward Adam Morrison, the nation's leading scorer last season, is expected to forgo his senior year and declare for the NBA draft, according to numerous reports citing unnamed sources.

Spokane television stations KREM and KXLY both reported Monday night that Morrison had decided to turn pro. Both cited unnamed sources. The Spokesman-Review and The Seattle Times both reported in Tuesday's editions that the first team All-America would leave, also citing unnamed sources.

Morrison has not commented on the reports, but has scheduled a press conference at Gonzaga for Wednesday afternoon.

His mother would not say if Morrison was turning pro.

"No comment," Wanda Morrison told The Associated Press, saying people should wait for her son's announcement.

Gonzaga coach Mark Few did not return several telephone messages left by the AP.

Speculation has been rampant since Gonzaga lost to UCLA in the Sweet Sixteen that Morrison, perhaps the most decorated athlete in Gonzaga history, had played his final game for the Zags.

Morrison, a 6-foot-8 forward, and his family hinted as much in a recent interview in Sports Illustrated. A diabetic, Morrison told the magazine he felt he needed to move quickly because of uncertainty over his future health.

"Time is of the essence," Morrison told the magazine. "I'm going to deteriorate a little faster than anyone else."

Morrison constantly monitors his blood sugar during games and sometimes gives himself insulin injections while on the bench.

His father, John, told the magazine that diabetes could cripple his son's hands or feet at any time.

Morrison, who averaged 28.1 points per game last season, is expected to be a first-round draft choice in the June 28 NBA draft. He has until April 29 to officially declare for the draft.

The West Coast Confer-

ence player of the year, Morrison edged Duke's J.J. Redick for this year's national scoring title. He finished second to Redick for the Naismith and John R. Wooden Awards for college basketball's player of the year.

In three seasons at Gonzaga, Morrison scored 1,867 points to rank third on the Bulldog's all-time scoring list, behind Frank Burgess (2,196) and Jim McPhee (2,015).

Morrison scored at least 30 points 14 times this season and five times scored at least 40 points as he became the second Bulldog to win the national scoring title. Burgess accomplished the feat by averaging 32.4 ppg for the 1960-61 season. Morrison's 926 points this season topped Burgess' all-time single-season school record of 842 during the 1960-61 campaign.

Gonzaga finished 29-4 this season.

Morrison played with a swagger and aggressiveness that made him a lightning rod for opposing fans. A thin mustache he cultivated this year became a source of jokes and jeers, which only served to fire him up.

One Web site reported that Morrison will sign with Chicago-based agent Mark Bartelstein. Bartelstein, who also represents former Gonzaga stars Dan Dickau and Blake Stepp, and Chicago Bulls guard Jan-nero Pargo, brother of Gonzaga's Jeremy Pargo, did not return telephone calls Tuesday.

Black athlete graduation rate shows improvement

Study shows 24 percent rise over 20 years

By **Travis Reed**
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - The number of black athletes getting diplomas across all NCAA Division I sports jumped 24 percentage points from 1984 to 2004, marking big gains for a demographic that once recorded just 35 percent graduation success, according to a study released Thursday.

Black athletes were at

least 15 percent more likely to graduate if they entered college in 1998 instead of 1984, according to the report by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport.

Female black athletes remained more successful than males, graduating 73 percent of the time compared with 54 percent for men. The same was true of whites, with 73 percent of women graduating and 66 percent of men.

Graduation success for all whites still outpaced black athletes 66 percent to 52 percent, according to federal graduation rates cited in the study.

"Certainly, the data is trending in the right direction," NCAA spokesman Bob Williams said. "The increases for all African-American student athletes were between 15 and 18 percent, and that's good, but that doesn't mean the job's over. There's room for improvement, and we hope that institutions are able to continue that trend working upward."

The percentage improvements for black athletes from 1984 until 2004 were

"...it's been the most discouraging thing about athletics and academics, that gap has been persistently wide..."

calculated using the NCAA's new graduation success rates considered more accurate than federal numbers because they include transfer students.

By that standard, 59 percent of black athletes got their diplomas in the latest year. No NCAA data for white athletes was included in the study. The report studied each class of students entering college by year, and athletes were allotted six years to graduate.

Study author Richard Lapchick said the results were good news for college

athletics.

"The most encouraging thing is finally it's narrowing," Lapchick said of the racial performance gap. "This is something I've been writing about for so long, and it's been the most discouraging thing about athletics and academics, that gap has been persistently wide, and has in some cases gotten wider."

Lapchick also noted that black athletes continue to graduate at higher rates than black students in general. Forty-three percent of black students in general graduated, compared with 59 percent of black student-athletes.

In revenue-generating sports, black men's basketball players graduated 49 percent of the time, compared with 54 percent for black football players and 71 percent for women's basketball players, according to the study.

Wide achievement discrepancies between black and white players in basketball persist. At 43 percent of Division I schools, white graduation rates were at least 30 points higher than rates for black players. In women's basketball, 25 percent of schools saw that big of a disparity.

HOMES FOR SALE

100% FINANCING
No closing Costs
Less Than Perfect Credit

FREE CREDIT REPORTS

Call Now
Peak Realty
(979) 921-9530

P.V. Student Housing

Now Leasing
3 Bedroom Homes

24687 Richards Rd.
PEAK REALTY
979-921-9530

BROOKS LANDING APARTMENTS

24444 RICHARDS ROAD

936-857-9533

WWW.BROOKSLANDINGAPTS.COM

ONE MILE FROM CAMPUS

1X1	2X2	4X2
\$645	\$495/\$520	\$415

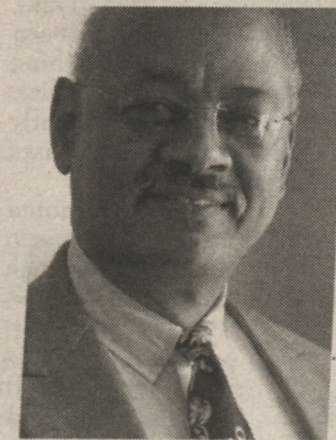
PRICES FOR EACH ROOM!!

ALL ROOMS INCLUDE: ALL BILLS PAID

**CABLE (3 PREMIUM), WASHER & DRYERS IN EACH APARTMENT,
BUILT IN DESKS AND CEILING FANS**

ALCOHOLISM: A Sobering Assessment

Developing bad habits could be detrimental



By Dr. Ronald Briggs
Faculty Contributor

Alcohol use has been part of the social fabric since the beginning of human history. For many, the consumption of alcohol is a gratifying and reassuring convivial activity. For the majority of adults, moderate use (two drinks per day for men or one drink per day for women) poses little or no adverse effects. However, a significant number of individuals suffer major consequences in their personal and social lives because of their drinking behaviors.

It is estimated that 17 million adults in America abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent. In the body, alcohol impacts virtually every organ system. In too many instances, its repeated use is life threatening (more than 100,000 deaths each year). Alcohol is second only to tobacco as the leading cause of premature death in the United States.

Frequent abuse of alcohol places the individual at increased risk for liver disease, brain and nervous system damage, compromised im-

mune system, certain types of cancers, and fetal and birth abnormalities. Homicidal and suicidal behaviors are significantly increased with alcohol consumption. Academic difficulties and drop-outs are strongly associated with alcohol use. Significant numbers of students involved in acquaintance rapes had been drinking.

Give yourself and those who care for you a gift by taking the following screening questionnaire.

1. Have you ever felt that you should cut down on your drinking?
2. Have people annoyed or angered you by criticizing your drinking?
3. Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?
4. Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover (eye opener)?

Interpretation:
One yes indicates a possibility of alcohol dependency, two or three indicate a high alcohol dependency suspicion index, and four yeses indicate alcohol dependency is highly likely. This questionnaire effectively discriminates alcohol dependency from non-alcohol dependency at or above the 90 percent range.

Because as a legal drug, alcohol is life threatening promoted socially and ubiquitously consumed, it leads all other drugs for treatment intervention. In purely economic terms, alcohol-related problems cost society in excess of 185 billion dollars yearly. In purely human terms, the costs are incalculable.

For assistance or an-

swers to questions contact the following agencies:
Your Student Counseling Services
Owen Franklin Health Center
(936)857-2511

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
World Services, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10115
Phone: (212) 870-3400; Fax
(212) 870-3003
Internet address: <http://www.aa.org>
Makes referral to local AA groups and provides informational materials on the AA program.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)
22 Cortlandt Street, Suite 801
New York, NY 10007
Phone: (212) 269-7797; Fax
(212) 269-7510
Email: national@ncadd.org
HOPE LINE: (800) NCA-CALL
(24-hour Affiliate referral)
Internet address: <http://www.ncadd.org>

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617
Phone: (757) 563-1600; Fax
(757) 563-1655
Email: WSO@al-anon.org
Internet address: <http://www.al-anon.alateen.org>
Makes referrals to local Al-Anon groups, which are support groups for spouses and other significant adults in an alcoholic person's life.

LIFESTYLES & HEALTH

EDITED BY LACHELLE E. WHITLOW LWHITLOW@PVAMU.EDU

Black women and AIDS

By Dreschelle Edwards
Panther Contributor

Let it be known, the HIV/AIDS epidemic among Black women has made significant improvement.

In 2005 The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced that HIV infection rates among Black women have dropped six percent between the year 2000 and 2003. More notably, Black women aged 13-24 have had a whopping 20 percent decrease in the ten years period 1994 through 2003. Additionally, the rate for Blacks as a whole has shown improvement, with a five percent drop for HIV infection rates as a whole.

Unfortunately, the racial disparity is still evident in HIV infections. It is important that we note the triumphs as well as the reality. The reality is: Black women still make up 68 percent of newly diagnosed infections.

With that being said,

there is a staggering amount of work to be done. Studies have identified factors that explain this disparity, including poverty, sexual and emotional abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and the gender imbalance in the available partners in Black America. In spite of these socio-economic factors, we as Black women have to evaluate the aspects of ourselves that have a direct link to our sexual behavior. We can make the choice to protect ourselves, or to allow ourselves to become vulnerable to harm. We must take the time to evaluate what roles men play in your lives, both family members and lovers, when it comes to developing future relationships. In time we will be able to identify the mistakes that we may make over and over again in our sexual and romantic lives, this in turn will allow for safer decisions to be made. Make the first decision, the best decision, and get tested to know for sure.

Congratulations

To Pulitzer Prize
Winners
for their
coverage on the
devastation caused by
Katrina

Two Prizes:
The Sun Herald
of South Mississippi
and
The Times-Picayune of
New Orleans
for coverage of
Hurricane Katrina
and providing a
lifeline to residents
struggling with the
aftermath.

By Associated Press

Grudges: Get em,' hold em,' and let em' go

By Frank Cage
Panther Staff

Walking across campus to the MSC, a couple holds hands while trying to go to lunch. As the couple enters the automatic sliding doors, a pretty sorority girl walks alongside them and the boyfriend turns to look at her. The girlfriend wastes no time, as she tries to put her man in check for disrespecting her in her face. The boyfriend tries to reconcile and say that he thought he knew the sorority girl, but it wasn't the person he thought it was, but his girlfriend does not believe a word he says and storms out the MSC without him.

A few hours pass by and the boyfriend calls his girlfriend to see if she has calmed down after the big uproar. When she answers she tries to listen, but shortly thereafter, she hangs the phone up in his face and tells him not to call her anymore. Take note: She does not say that she wants to break up, but just tells him not to call her anymore.

Many would call this hypothetical situation as the girlfriend holding a "grudge." The Microsoft Encarta Dictionary defines a grudge as a "feeling of resentment or to

give something reluctantly." To many who are in relationships, this is basically a case of a fight over something stupid and not acting like adults to get over the situation.

On the other hand, it can also be considered a case of a girl being jealous (which can also happen the other way around), or unveiling a sense of insecurity. Grudges are not only affiliated with relationships, but with friendships as well. No matter what the situation is, what is the true meaning of a grudge?

"Holding onto grudges in a relationship brings nothing but conflicts and problems," said Lunita "Dee" Anderson, a 22-year-old senior communications major. "Being mad at somebody for a long time over the same thing is just an easy way to end the relationship. It's unhealthy to hold in a lot of unnecessary frustration. All grudges are not easy to just let go of depending on the situation. Grudges can kill a relationship. Even though the relationship is gone the grudge can still last."

Anderson is correct in what she says about holding grudges and killing relationships, but what happens when there is infidelity going on in the relationship? For example,

a guy cheats on a girl (or the other way around) and she decides to take him back. In this case, is it holding a grudge when she continues to throw the situation back in his face?

"If my boyfriend cheats on me and I decide to stay in the relationship, then I choose to let it go and hold no grudges. But if his cheating causes the relationship to end, then I have no reason to hold a grudge," said Akua Zellner, a senior criminal justice major. Junior communications major Willy Watkins says grudges are simply a waste of time, "Grudges are just a way for the person who has a grudge to try and gain attention, but when it comes to friendships it's not worth losing a friend." Friends also play a major role when it comes to holding grudges.

When grudges are

held within a friendship, there usually has been some type of sexual act with someone's significant other. Depending on how the situation is handled will determine if there will or won't be a grudge. "If my home-boy sleeps with one of my girls I want hold no grudge as long as he's man enough to come at me grown about the situation. What's done is what's done,"

says Rashid Tillis, a 22 year old senior majoring in criminal justice. Friends also play a role by voicing their opinion when they may not even know the whole story.

If you forgive a person, you should be able to move on and not look back. If you choose to end the relationship, you should end all ties with it especially the grudges.



Photo by Christina Taylor

Caught up: How will he get his girlfriend to get over him looking at another girl?

To live or not to live...that is the question

What students had to say about living on campus versus living off campus

By Frank Cage
Panther Staff

It's the question that every college student begins to usually ponder once experiencing on-campus living, "Should I continue to live on campus or move off campus?"

Making the decision to live in off-campus housing is usually the most appealing option for many college students. Living outside the university system has its advantages and disadvantages. Wanting to attain the sense of the "grown-up" lifestyle and having more freedom is common for students who want to move outside the campus perimeters. Oftentimes the need to save money on the extra fees that come with on-campus living leads to necessity

for many students to find housing elsewhere. Before making the decision to sign that first lease for off-campus living, students should consider many factors.

Just as in society, there are many different classes of students on the Prairie View campus, meaning that all students are in different predicaments such as money availability, students who put themselves through school alone, students whose parents put them through school and so forth. Depending on the situation that a particular student may be in, depends on their individual reasoning behind why they may or may not want to move off campus, and also which is best for their lifestyle.

Two of the major fac-

tors that are taken into consideration when making this decision is weighing the time spent at school versus time spent at work. For many students who have to manage their time between school and an off-campus job, off-campus housing may be the best option for their lifestyle to manage time spent on the road. "Living off campus is better for me because it's closer to where I work, and I'm at work more than I'm at school," said Shannan McKinley, a junior communications major who works in the Houston area.

Many times students complain about not wanting to eat the food that is provided in the MSC. A meal plan for on-campus living can range anywhere from \$800-\$1000 or more a semester. For students

who don't take advantage of the meals available, this can result in a waste of money that can go towards something else. On the flip side, even though off-campus living will save a student this money, it comes with extra responsibility. "By living off campus, I have more cleaning and cooking to do, and that mixed with school is a lot," said Candice Bogan, a junior communications major.

For all students who have had problems with the reliability and availability of on-campus housing and roommates, moving off campus is a major decision that needs to be discerned. Niandrea "Sleepy-time" Howard, a senior business major, said that living off campus is just an overall better

experience. "I like being able to pick my own roommates and knowing who they are going to be before they move in. I also like having my own privacy, no break-ins, and it's more quiet than the Village."

On top of the reasons that these three students have given when trying to make the decision to move off campus there are many more things to consider, such as cost and is it worth it, gas, time, responsibility, safety, landlords, apartment or house and many more that may pertain to different lifestyles. Off-campus living is good for some who have already made that decision, and may not be good for those wondering about the new lifestyle. Whatever the case may be, weigh all your options.

PANTHER@PVAMU.EDU

Prairie View's first black psychology forum opens the eyes and ears of many students

By LaCheryl E. Whitlow
L/H and A/E Editor

On Tuesday, April 18, dozens of students gathered in the administrative auditorium for what was distinctively presented as the first annual black psychology forum. This production was made in part by the Department of Psychology and Century II

Reading Committee. The colloquium primarily discussed issues such as the Black child development, cultural, and educational development.

The guest panelists included Dr. James Johnson and Dr. Shanna Broussard, authors of the phenomenal book, *Cultural and educational Excellence Revisited: Knowing, Doing, Being, and Becoming as Though Saving*

the African American Child matters. While explaining the theories and research involved in developing the book, an open discussion allowed students to challenge and expand their own personal thoughts revolving African American issues by launching a question and answer period.

"I was thinking this seminar was highly informa-

tive and very well put together on behalf of the psychology department and I really hope that it can happen again every year, Brown and, Wilson did an excellent job of getting to get psychology students exposed to this social issue" says Psychology/Sociology major Pamela Kibbles. "I really look forward to this again," she added.

According to Barnes

and Nobles online book review gave *Cultural and educational Excellence Revisited: Knowing, Doing, Being, and Becoming as Though Saving the African American Child Matters* four out of five stars. "It's a really good book and I think that everyone should try to read this book to make an attempt to better the black youth of tomorrow" says Psychology minor Jerrold Phillips.

Howard student helps white girl be "black"

By Joy Young
Black College Wire

Howard University student DeVaughn Harris appears on the new reality TV series, "Black, White," produced by rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube and R.J. Cutler, documentarian turned reality show producer.

The show hopes to promote discussion of race in a social experiment in which makeup makes a black family white and a white family black. It airs on the FX network on Wednesdays, and debuted March 8.

The sophomore speech communications major and as-

piring TV producer was a member of a poetry class in which the show's white-girl-turned-black, Rose Bloomfield, 18, was enrolled.

Harris recalled that the first time he met Rose, he assumed she was a black girl who had been around white people most of her life.

"I signed up for a poetry class at a poetry spot in L.A. called Da Poetry Lounge. . . . We were told from the start that we weren't meant to be major figures in the show. We were just basically getting to take a \$400 poetry class for free and get our faces seen on TV. They only told us that a girl who was new to the

area was also in the class and the show was meant to document her. And after meeting her, it never crossed my mind that she was white or that Hollywood had the skills to change someone's skin color. It wasn't 'til later in the class that we all discovered she was white."

Later, producers asked Harris to help Rose learn about the black experience. Harris sat in on meetings and added his ideas to the production, and even got some behind the scenes experience.

"Outside of being a student in the poetry class, I was hired as an employee with Actual Reality," one of the pro-

duction companies, "to work for the remainder of the show. I was able to sit in the office to help with brainstorming ideas for activities that the families would do to make for a better experience. I also shadowed one of the producers and was exposed to the filming, editing process and makeup procedures. They let me actually work with the cameras and film a little. I spent some time at the end of



Photo courtesy Black College Wire

Night and Day: On "Black, White," Rose Bloomfield changes races. Howard student DeVaughn Harris coached her.

the day editing with them." Even though working on the show made for extremely long days and even longer nights, Harris would not trade his experience for anything.

"Most days I'd start with them around 10 or 11 in the morning and wouldn't leave till 1 or 2 the next morning. I loved my experience. . . . I felt privileged. I was basically picked to represent black people and try to get a young white girl to understand what it was like to be black. I did my best to show her our culture and not the stereotypes."

In addition, he said, "A handful of black people got an opportunity to dispel some of the stereotypes they had of whites. Because oftentimes, we as blacks only look at the world from our perspective, [so] we're unable to truly appreciate white people. Just as not every black person is the same, not every white person is the same. They are as complex as we are. And we at the Mecca have historically fought racism, and there is no reason why the legacy shouldn't be more prominent."

Events for April 20-April 26

Thursday, 4/20 University Cheerleaders 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. WJN College of Business 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. MSC-204 Alpha Phi Alpha 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. MSC University Academic Council 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. MSC-203 Alpha Kappa Alpha 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. WJN NAACP 5:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. WRB-242 Classic Dance Ensemble 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. WJG Phi Mu Alpha 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. MSC History Club 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. ArchA243 PALS 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. HBTRH Alpha Lambda Omega 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. JPAFC All Faith Chapel 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. MSC-111	Friday, 4/21 University Cheerleaders 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. WJN Agriculture 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. MSC-204 Financial Aid 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. SL Delta Sigma Theta 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. HBTRH Saturday, 4/22 Juvenile Justice & Psychology 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. MSC University Cheerleaders 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. WJN Hoover Carden Scholarship Fund 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. CampusWalk Delta Sigma Theta 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. MSC All Faith Chapel 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. MSC-111	Sunday, 4/23 SGA 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. MSC-111 Monday, 4/24 SGA 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. MSC SGA 12 p.m. - 10 p.m. MSC-111 Omega Psi Phi 6:10 p.m. - 9:10 p.m. MSC SGA 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. MSC-204 Wednesday, 4/26 University Village 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. MSC-204 Student Nursing Assoc 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. JBCL-108 Health & Counseling 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. HBTRH FOCCS 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Tuesday, 4/25 University Cheerleaders 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. W.J.Nicks Student Activities 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. MSC-201 CAB 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. MSC PALS 2 p.m. - 2 p.m. MSC Alpha Kappa Alpha 4:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. W.J.Nicks NSBE 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. CLW-103
---	--	--	--



Panther Poetry Lounge

Too Smart

By Rondrea Taylor

*I'm too smart for this s@%! too fly and too thick
Yeah so I said it, if you want me then you got me!
All of me... pure as can be the cannon is loose! I'm
open but not free.*

*The problem is so simple it's easy, but it's hard to
see*

*It's like complex simplicity, I'm too smart for this
s@#t and too swift for your s#\$! No, no I don't
want your d#%!*

Why aren't you smiling?

*Did I say something you didn't like? I was being
so polite! The truth is, mister, I'm just tired of
being nice, tired of being abused and constantly
misused, tired of being discarded. But you're so
lame and I'm so hip to your game.*

*Name ain't changed I'm still the same and yes, it's
true...see I'm a virgin but I ain't urging you.*

*I'm not looking for you because I want a love
that's true, I want my man to be packing
spiritually, emotionally, and physically...*

*I want him to fend for me and be the drug that he
needs. I can get him so high, get him so lit once my
fire starts it's all consuming...but I'm too smart
for this shhhh!*



20 QUESTIONS



1. What the heck is going on in the Village? 2. Do they really think that swiping a gate card is going to keep people from breaking in? 3. Why are they offering a free eight dollar movie pass if you hurry up and pay some five hundred dollar rent? 4. Who kept blowing up that big @\$\$ balloon they had in front of the Village? 5. Why did they keep putting it up after people kept letting the air out? 6. When will the Village get a clue? 7. What girl never goes to class but is never tardy for all the AKA seminars? 8. Which Miss Prairie View contestant has a true skeleton to hide? 9. Does she really think that the student body won't find out? 10. Or is she hoping she can just sleep her way out of this one like everything else? 11. Is it true that the new BSM president really has a boyfriend? 12. Or is he just "metrosexual"? 13. Does it really matter since all of the tenors are gay? 14. Who is the SGA member who's going to be shocked when he finds out he still can't graduate this semester? 15. Who was the girl who got caught looking at naked females on the internet in the library? 16. Is that mandatory for all student workers? 17. What girl was walking back to UC on foot last week at three in the morning? 18. Doesn't she know if she has to walk for it, it's not worth it? 19. What do you think?

This is for **entertainment only**. The questions submitted are not the views of **The Panther**. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail us at panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of **The Panther**.

E-mail The Panther



panther@pvamu.edu

PV
Choice Awards
April 24, 2006
MSC Auditorium
6:30pm
Pick-up your ticket Wed. - Fri.
in front of the MSC

Architecture from page 1

director of economic development. He was very impressed in their work as it not only addressed the needs provided by the City of Waller, but also implemented needs identified by the students. While the city did not identify it as a need, he commended the students' plans that incorporated a medical center.

City officers in attendance at the presentations in addition to Isom included Deborah Pattison, city secretary, James Fulton, chief of police, and Gene Schmidt, public works director. Dr. Akel Kahera, associate professor for the School of Architecture and the community development graduate school program, will be meeting with this group in the near future as they determine key elements from the plans and select the students who will participate in creating the final design plan for the City of Waller.

"I think my students did a great job presenting their projects," said Mazratian. "This was their first attempt present-

ing in front of real clients. I am sure they were nervous as I could hear it in their voice; however they were courageous enough to stand there and present their ideas and defend them as well at times. They did extensive research however they had only a limited time for their presentation. I am very much proud of them."

"The architectural design studio is the perfect setting for the study of environmental criticism," said Kahera. "Our students met the challenge, the master-plan proposals that were prepared for the city of Waller new town center clearly demonstrates the use of topography and environment as tropes, underlying the need for critical inquiry in the way we teach design and community development."

Also in attendance was Dr. Rick Baldwin, director of the community development graduate school program. He was very pleased to see how architecture students integrated other fields of study, including history and psychology, to create a plan best suited for the people of Waller

community. Furthermore, Baldwin said, "Through these presentations, the students not only linked how architecture relates to community development, but also proved that architecture plays a vital role in it." Graduate students in the community development program, will further the proposed plan by providing the City of Waller with a feasibility study.

**Got Questions?
The Panther Will
seek out the
answers.**

**Got Concerns?
Send a letter to the
editor and let your
voice be heard.**

**Contact
The Panther at:
panther@pvamu.edu**

RICHARD'S APARTMENTS**200 ECHOLS STREET**

(ON THE CORNER OF ECHOLS & RICHARD ST.)

281.451.6533**A 10 MINUTE WALK TO ANY CLASS ON CAMPUS****1 BEDROOMS****\$425.00**

(INCLUDES ELECTRICITY)

ROOMS**\$350.00**

(ALL BILLS PAID)

APRIL & MAY SPECIALS!!!**NO DEPOSIT!!!**

*15,000 cases of
Hepatitis B among
college age students.*

PANTHERS*On the Prowl**Giving you something to talk about!!***PROMOTING HEALTHY DECISIONS****The TRUTH about Hepatitis B****Are you at risk?****ABCs of Hepatitis B**

Transmission: Contact with contaminated blood or body fluids via sex, tattoo or piercing needles, intravenous drug use or sharing personal care items.

Symptoms: Fever, joint pain, generalized aches and pains, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, pain in the abdomen and jaundice, although about one-third of people with hepatitis B show no symptoms.

Effects: Usually clears up within six months, but some people develop a chronic infection that can result in scarring of the liver or liver cancer.

Treatment: There is no cure for chronic hepatitis B, but there are medications that can help you stay well longer.

Prevention: The best way to protect yourself from infection is by vaccination.

*Half of the reported
cases of Hepatitis B are
among individuals who
engage in high risk
sexual activity.*